



HELSINKI COMMISSION



REVIEW OF THE 116TH CONGRESS

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

234 FORD HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
3RD & D STREETS SW, WASHINGTON, DC 20515

WWW.CSCE.GOV

Table of Contents

1. [List of Commissioners](#)
2. [Overview of Priorities & Accomplishments](#)
3. [Infographics](#)
4. [Catalog of Events & Press](#)
 - a. [Hearings](#)
 - b. [Briefings](#)
 - c. [Press](#)

Commissioners: 116th Congress

U.S. House of Representatives

- [Chairman Alcee L. Hastings](#), Florida
- [Ranking Member Joe Wilson](#), South Carolina
- [Robert B. Aderholt](#), Alabama
- [Emanuel Cleaver, II](#), Missouri
- [Steve Cohen](#), Tennessee
- [Brian Fitzpatrick](#), Pennsylvania
- [Richard Hudson](#), North Carolina
- [Gwen Moore](#), Wisconsin
- [Marc Veasey](#), Texas

U.S Senate

- [Co-Chairman Roger F. Wicker](#), Mississippi
- [Ranking Member Benjamin L. Cardin](#), Maryland
- [John Boozman](#), Arkansas
- [Cory Gardner](#), Colorado
- [Marco Rubio](#), Florida
- [Jeanne Shaheen](#), New Hampshire
- [Thom Tillis](#), North Carolina
- [Tom Udall](#), New Mexico
- [Sheldon Whitehouse](#), Rhode Island

Overview of Priorities & Accomplishments

“For more than four decades, the Helsinki Commission has championed human rights and democracy across North America, Europe, and Central Asia. While we have worked to keep these concerns on the U.S. agenda, much remains to be accomplished.”

Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20), Chairman, U.S. Helsinki Commission

In the OSCE region, 2019 and 2020 were marked by unprecedented challenges stemming from the [COVID-19 pandemic](#), calls for racial justice, systematic human rights issues, and ongoing regional conflicts amidst U.S. presidential, Congressional, and regional and local elections. Through these crises, U.S. Helsinki Commission leadership worked tirelessly to ensure that human rights and comprehensive security continued to be promoted through the United States’ foreign and domestic policy agendas.

2020 also marked the [30th anniversary](#) of the Charter of Paris, which set unprecedented commitments to human rights, providing an opportunity for OSCE participating States to reflect and bolster human rights commitments during such a crucial time.

Through hearings and briefings, legislative activities, public statements and reports, and engagement with other foreign policy actors, the Helsinki Commission has focused on human rights and security challenges both in the United States and abroad to advance the commission’s priorities in the [116th Congress](#): principled foreign policy; human rights at home; parliamentary diplomacy; and safe, inclusive, and equitable societies. Additional policy focuses include regional security, election observation, OSCE engagement, and anti-corruption work.

Principled Foreign Policy

From respect for sovereignty and the territorial integrity of states to human rights and fundamental freedoms, commitments undertaken by OSCE participating States underpin peace and stability in the OSCE region and form the basis of comprehensive security for all people.

The Helsinki Commission strives to ensure that the protection of human rights and democratic development are central to a [principled U.S. foreign policy](#). During the 116th Congress, Belarus, Russia, Turkey, Hungary, Ukraine/Crimea, and the Balkans attracted particular attention, given the ongoing human rights and regional conflict issues in those countries.

Belarus

Following over two decades of authoritarian rule [supported by the Kremlin](#), a political crisis erupted in Belarus in the summer of 2020. After August 9 elections, the Alexander Lukashenko regime claimed victory, and the country saw an unrelenting crackdown by Belarusian authorities on peaceful protests, civil society, and the media. According to international observers, Belarus has not had free and fair national elections since Lukashenko was first elected president in 1994. Unprecedented crowds continue to protest the election.

Ahead of the election, Lukashenko eliminated his main political competition through disqualification or imprisonment. Numerous protestors, supporters of opposition candidates, and journalists were arrested

as last-minute candidate Svetlana Tsikhanovskaya drew unprecedented crowds to her rallies. Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) [called](#) on President Lukashenko “to order the release of those who have been detained for political reasons and allow real political competition in Belarus.”

After the elections and in reaction to the human rights abuses perpetrated by the Lukashenko regime, Chairman Hastings [wrote](#) to Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin requesting that the U.S. administration revoke access to the U.S. financial system for the nine largest state-owned companies in Belarus.

“The United States stands with the people of Belarus, who have a right to make free choices about their country’s future and to protest peacefully.”

Sen. Roger Wicker (MS), Co-Chairman, U.S. Helsinki Commission

After the invocation by 17 OSCE participating States of the Moscow Mechanism to report on human rights concerns in Belarus and subsequent investigation, Professor Wolfgang Benedek—the selected rapporteur—joined the Helsinki Commission for a [podcast](#) to discuss his findings, including evidence of fraudulent elections, systematic human rights violations, and a general situation of impunity for perpetrators.

Regional Security and Stability

In May 2020, following reports that the Trump administration planned to withdraw from the Treaty on Open Skies, Chairman Hastings [urged](#) Congress to support the United States’ allies and partners in Europe, as “withdrawing from the Open Skies Treaty can only benefit Putin’s continuing campaign of aggression against Russia’s neighbors.”

Chairman Hastings also authored an [amendment](#) to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for the 2021 Fiscal Year to reflect support for the Open Skies Treaty and [stated](#) his regret in November when the U.S. withdrew from the treaty. The Helsinki Commission held a joint [hearing](#) in November 2019 with the House Foreign Affairs Committee concerning the importance of the Open Skies Treaty for security and stability in Europe and released a [podcast](#) on the treaty’s benefits, the complexity of execution, and current challenges in implementation.

In July 2019, for the first time in its 43-year history the Helsinki Commission convened outside of the United States for a field hearing to underscore America’s commitment to [Baltic Sea regional security](#) and emphasize its unwavering support for U.S. friends and allies.

The commission also held a [briefing](#) to discuss the potential use of energy, specifically oil and gas projects, to achieve foreign policy goals, as well as the extent to which energy independence can reduce the ability of hostile actors to destabilize the European region by threatening to cut off access to energy supplies.

Turkey, Hungary, Ukraine/Crimea, and the Balkans

In April 2019, Co-Chairman Wicker and Ranking Member Sen. Ben Cardin (MD) introduced the [Defending United States Citizens and Diplomatic Staff from Political Prosecutions Act](#) to address arbitrary arrests which contribute to Turkey’s deteriorating respect for human rights under President Erdogan.

In April 2019, the Helsinki Commission hosted a [briefing](#) on recent developments in Hungary concerning a steady erosion of freedom, the rule of law, and quality of governance. Later that year, the commission reported on an amendment to the [Hungarian religion law](#), which continues to discriminate against people on the basis of their faith.

In late 2019, Co-Chairman Wicker successfully [pressed](#) Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban to stop the blockage of the European Union version of the Magnitsky Act. The U.S. Magnitsky Act allows the use of sanctions as a tool to target alleged human rights abusers and corruption, and its European counterpart would do the same. In May 2020, Co-Chairman Wicker and Ranking Member Cardin [urged](#) U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to work with the European Union's High Representative to advance EU Magnitsky Sanctions.

Following a mob attack in October 2019 on a Jewish community center providing office space to civil society groups in Budapest, Chairman Hastings and Ranking Member Cardin [called](#) the Hungarian government to take action during this “alarming escalation of violence toward minorities and civil society groups.” In 2020, the commission released a [report](#) detailing the escalating rhetorical attacks and legislative restrictions against civil society as Orban continues to consolidate power in Hungary.

In December 2019, Helsinki Commission Ranking Member Rep. Joe Wilson (SC-02) and Commissioner Rep. Emanuel Cleaver II (MO-05) introduced the bipartisan Ukraine Religious Freedom Support Act in the [House of Representatives](#), and Co-Chairman Wicker introduced the act, cosponsored by Helsinki Commissioner Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (NH), to the [Senate](#).

The act, which would combat Russia's religious freedom violations in the Crimea and Donbas regions of Ukraine, unanimously passed in the House of Representatives in November 2020 and awaits Senate action.

In July 2019, the Helsinki Commission hosted a [briefing](#) about reunifying societies divided by war, genocide, and other tragedies in areas such as the Balkans, as well as promoting reconciliation and healing for Holocaust survivors and other victims of Nazi persecution who continue to seek justice worldwide.

Twenty years after two U.S. citizens were brutally murdered in Serbia in the aftermath of the 1999 conflict in Kosovo, their brother Ilir joins the Helsinki Commission to [share](#) his family's fight for justice in the face of inaction by Serbian authorities.

Election Observation

In 1990, all OSCE participating States pledged to hold free and fair elections and to invite international observers. [OSCE election observation missions](#) often are undertaken jointly by the OSCE Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA). These election observation missions have been recognized as one of the most transparent and methodical ways to encourage States' commitment to democratic standards and have become a core element of the OSCE's efforts to provide feedback on the election processes to the benefit of candidates and voters alike.

Commissioners and staff have observed well over 100 elections since 1990, and in 2020 alone, the OSCE has been invited to observe elections in nearly 20 OSCE participating States, including the United States.

In 2019, the commission held a [briefing](#) focused on the benefits and challenges of international election observation, best practices, and emerging issues such as voting technology and security.

In addition, the use of [disinformation](#) to influence elections has become a pervasive and persistent threat in all 57 OSCE participating States. Ahead of the 2020 general elections, the commission held a [briefing](#) on

the intersections and influences of disinformation and COVID-19 on the electoral process. Election observation is an important way to help monitor these effects on the workings of democracy.

A limited election observation mission was deployed by the OSCE to observe the 2020 general election in the United States. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, the OSCE team was confident it produced a thorough, impartial, fact-based [assessment](#) that concluded the elections were free and fair, as well as “competitive and well managed despite legal uncertainties and logistical challenges” posed by the pandemic and the polarized political climate.

OSCE Institutions and Policy

During the past two years, the Helsinki Commission hosted hearings featuring both the [Albanian](#) and [Slovakian](#) OSCE Chairs in Office, as well as the [OSCE Representative for Freedom of the Media](#) Harlem Desir, to discuss OSCE institutional priorities such as human rights violations, conflict resolution, and the safety of journalists.

In January 2020, the Helsinki Commission welcomed OSCE Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights Director Ambassador Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir, in her first appearance before Congress, to address challenges in the OSCE region related to [human rights and democracy](#).

In December 2020, the Helsinki Commission held a [hearing](#), “U.S. Priorities for Engagement at the OSCE,” where Ambassador Philip T. Reeker U.S. State Department Senior Bureau Official, who has been serving in the role of Acting Assistant Secretary for Europe and Eurasia since March 2018, emphasized that the United States is focused on upholding Helsinki Final Act commitments and pushing all participating States to live up to their own commitments to these principles.

Human Rights at Home

Like all other OSCE participating States, the United States must also examine how well—or how poorly—it is living up to its own OSCE commitments. In the 116th Congress, the Helsinki Commission took a hard look at [human rights at home](#).

“If the United States wants to remain a credible voice in the promotion of human rights abroad, we must fiercely protect them at home.”

Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20), Chairman, U.S. Helsinki Commission

In summer 2020 the Helsinki Commission launched a series of hearings focused on [restorative justice related to public monuments and memorials](#), [the safety of journalists](#), and [implications of domestic human rights issues for U.S. leadership](#). The commission also [convened](#) political and civil rights leaders to discuss the impact of George Floyd’s tragic death on the need to shape policies that confront and prevent racism and racist acts.

The Helsinki Commission dealt at further length with the safety of journalists and freedom of the media in the United States. In the aftermath of attacks on journalists covering protests calling for racial justice, Chairman Rep. Hastings [expressed](#) the need to take an “honest and critical look at America’s own record in recent weeks on protecting journalists and safeguarding press freedom.”

The U.S. Agency for Global Media (USAGM) [supports networks](#) that reach more than 350 million people across the world, many of whom otherwise would not have access to independent, unbiased news. When USAGM failed to renew J-1 visas for foreign Voice of America (VOA) journalists, Chairman Rep. Hastings, Ranking Member Sen. Ben Cardin, and Helsinki Commissioners Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, Rep. Steve Cohen (TN-09), and Rep. Marc Veasey (TX-33) [demanded](#) that U.S. Agency for Global Media (USAGM) CEO Michael Pack provide a detailed explanation and called for new policies to protect the personal security of VOA journalists working under the USAGM.

Safe, Inclusive, and Equitable Societies

Civil rights are human rights, and advancing societies that are [safe, inclusive, and equitable](#) is central to the work of the Helsinki Commission. [Anti-racism initiatives](#) have always been a priority for the commission, but they found particular focus in 2020 in conjunction with the exposure of systemic racism in police brutality and the disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 on minority populations. Commissioners looked inward to the United States' own domestic policies, as well as outward to other OSCE countries, to develop ideas and policies that promote principles of [social inclusion](#), empowering diverse populations and enhancing the ability for everyone to fully participate in society.

Over the past decade, Chairman Hastings has drawn attention to the racism and discrimination faced by black Europeans, recognizing their fight for inclusion. In March 2019, he introduced legislation establishing a strategy to protect the collective [history and achievements](#) of people of African descent and to promote the [human rights](#) of people of African descent worldwide, and a year later, he introduced a bill to implement a government-wide [diversity and inclusion plan](#).

“Across the globe we find racial disparities between those of African descent and other populations in education, employment, health, housing, justice, and other sectors. At the same time, hate crimes and racial profiling targeting black populations are increasing,” [said](#) Chairman Hastings. “A global strategy ensures we are monitoring whether countries around the world are providing equal protections and opportunity to all within their borders.”

Chairman Hastings also collaborated with other Helsinki Commissioners to address racism globally. In July 2020, Chairman Hastings, along with Helsinki Commissioners Rep. Gwen Moore (WI-04), Rep. Cleaver, Rep. Veasey, and 35 other Members of the United States Congress, including the Congressional Black Caucus Chair, [called](#) for a sweeping plan of action following the European Parliament's Juneteenth Day resolution supporting protests against racism and police brutality.

Chairman Hastings and Rep. Gregory W. Meeks (NY-05) also issued a [statement](#) regarding foreign affairs funding for diverse, global anti-racism programs, commemorating John Lewis' yearly leadership in securing these appropriations requests.

In September, Chairman Hastings and other Helsinki Commissioners joined members of the European Parliament's Civil Liberties Committee and Subcommittee on Human Rights to discuss combating racism and systemic discrimination on both sides of the Atlantic. In October, Ranking Member Cardin joined the office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities for an online [event](#) that evaluated the applicability of the *2006 Recommendations on Policing in Multi-Ethnic Societies*, highlighted relevant legislation, and discussed structural changes to address discriminatory police violence.

Ahead of International Roma Day in 2020, the Helsinki Commission hosted a [discussion](#) about racism against Roma, the [largest ethnic minority](#) in Europe who have historically faced enslavement and continue

to battle discrimination. The conversation focused on the state of Roma rights in Europe, as well as resolutions introduced by Helsinki Commission leaders to celebrate Romani American heritage.

Reports from nearly every corner of the OSCE region suggest that minority groups have been impacted especially hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, and an [extended episode](#) of "Helsinki on the Hill" takes an in-depth look at the pandemic's impact on vulnerable populations, such as the Roma, and the role of governments in addressing that impact.

In December 2019, the Helsinki Commission convened a [hearing](#) to focus on public diplomacy initiatives that cultivate leaders who espouse democratic principles, including inclusive and representative governance.

The commission also released a podcast discussing how to achieve [equitable and inclusive democracies](#) through political inclusion and economic empowerment. Guests discussed their experiences on the front lines of the fight for greater diversity and inclusion in Europe, and in the transatlantic policymaking space more broadly.

Members of the Helsinki Commission have long supported diversity and inclusion efforts in international affairs including through the annual [Transatlantic Inclusion Leaders Network \(TILN\) workshop](#), a [hearing](#) about the state of diversity and inclusion in Europe, and a new transatlantic democracy program for youth "[On the Road to Inclusion](#)."

In March 2020, Chairman Hastings introduced the [Leadership Institute for Transatlantic Engagement \(LITE\) Act](#), calling for the creation of a transatlantic institute focused on strengthening democratic principles and values in the West, as well as pioneering inclusive and intergenerational solutions to current challenges that would empowering individuals across generations and from diverse backgrounds with the knowledge, tools, opportunity, and access to fully participate in their democracies.

The commission also supports diversity in the [diplomatic corps](#). Chairman Hastings, Co-Chairman Wicker, and Ranking Member Cardin joined bipartisan Congressional efforts to support annual funding for State Department and USAID diversity fellowship programs, as well as study abroad opportunities.

Parliamentary Diplomacy

[Parliamentary diplomacy](#) advances comprehensive security and democratic institutions in the OSCE region and acts as a tool to promote safe, inclusive and equitable societies. Commissioners have championed the development of parliamentary assemblies for regional organizations throughout the world and participate regularly in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA), which offers opportunities for engagement among parliamentarians from OSCE participating States.

The Helsinki Commission organizes bicameral U.S. delegations to OSCE PA meetings throughout the year. With 17 of 323 seats, the United States has the largest representation in the assembly. In the 116th Congress, commissioners explored ways to [defend human rights](#), [hold the Kremlin accountable](#), and [maximize cooperation with OSCE Mediterranean partners](#) at OSCE PA meetings.

Commissioners visited [Hungary](#), [Tunisia](#), [Israel](#), and [Morocco](#) in bipartisan delegations aiming to strengthen shared principles, and Commissioners reported on these visits at OSCE PA meetings as well.

Co-Chairman Wicker led the largest bipartisan, bicameral U.S. delegation in history to the 28th [Annual Session](#) of the OSCE PA in July 2019 in Luxembourg. At this annual session, Helsinki Commission Ranking Member Cardin, who also serves as OSCE PA [Special Representative on Anti-Semitism, Racism,](#)

[and Intolerance](#), hosted a U.S. [side event](#) in his capacity as Special Representative on the topic of adopting an action plan to counter hate and foster inclusion.

Following a two-day seminar organized by Helsinki Commission and the OSCE PA in February 2020, *Future Leadership for Political Inclusion in the OSCE Region: A Seminar for Young Parliamentarians*, nearly 20 young legislators from OSCE participating States issued a [joint declaration](#) emphasizing the important role young people must play in addressing human rights and security challenges across the world.

The commission hosted OSCE PA officials for a [briefing](#) in December of 2019 to share a parliamentary perspective on the priorities and objectives of the Albanian chairmanship of the OSCE amid regional conflicts and resistance to democratic reforms in some countries in the OSCE region.

The commission also regularly hosts [hearings](#), convenes [panels](#), and participates in [events](#) related to parliamentary diplomacy, highlighting [the important role](#) the OSCE PA and other parliamentary assemblies play in holding governments accountable to standards of cooperation and human rights.

Corruption

During the 116th Congress, the Helsinki Commission promoted efforts to combat [corruption](#) in the OSCE region, recognizing it as a threat to democracy, security, and human rights. The commission's work focuses on [authoritarian kleptocracy](#), a form of autocratic government that relies on financial globalization and secrecy to steal and maintain power.

Members of the Helsinki Commission introduced the [Rodchenkov Act](#), the [Kleptocrat Exposure Act](#), the [Combating the Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products Act \(CITTPA\)](#), the [Countering Russian and Other Overseas Kleptocracy \(CROOK\) Act](#), the [Foreign Extortion Prevention Act](#), and the [Transnational Repression Accountability and Prevention \(TRAP\) Act](#).

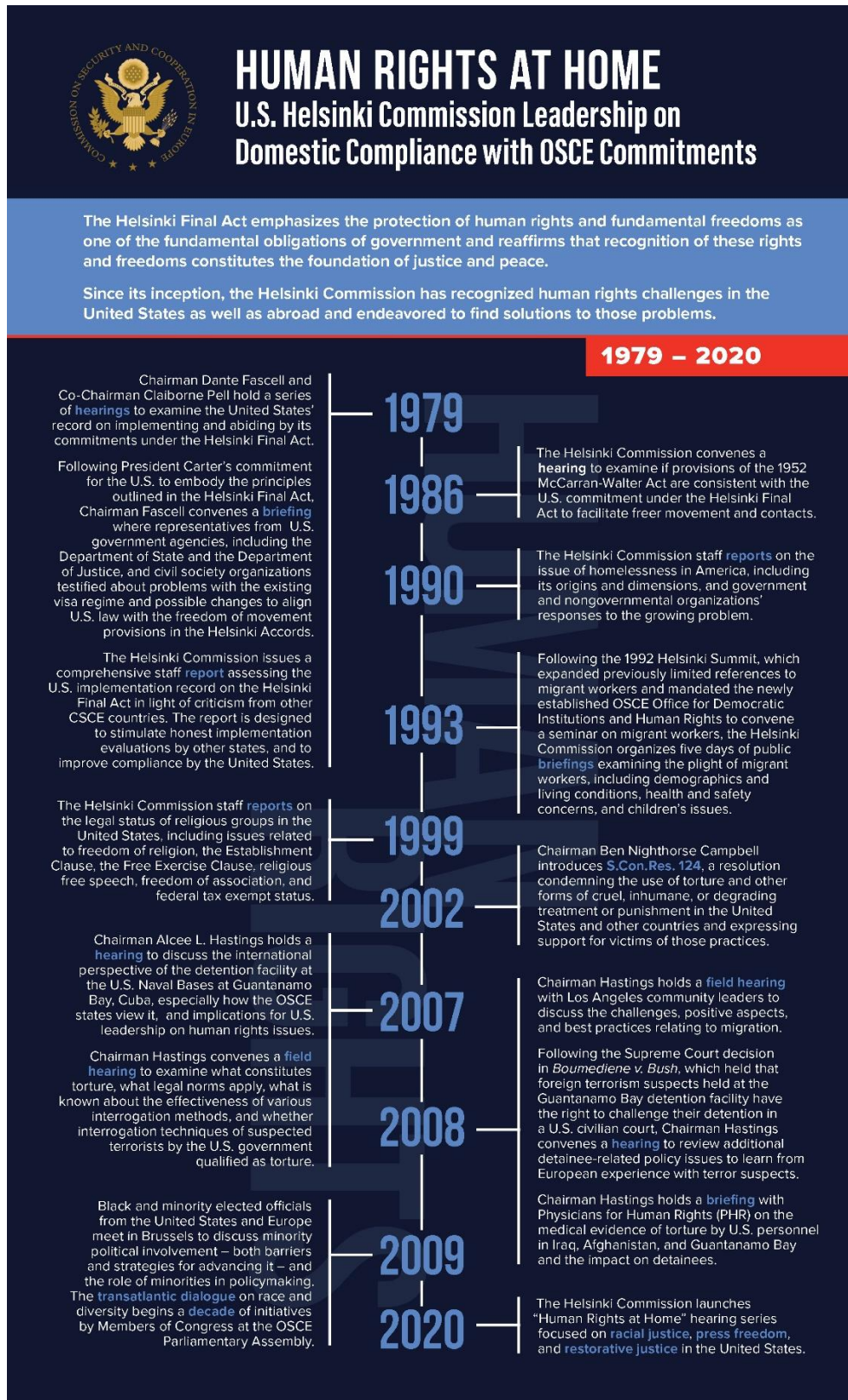
The [Rodchenkov Act](#) passed through both chambers of Congress and was signed into law by President Trump on December 4, 2020. The act establishes criminal penalties for doping schemes, provides restitution for victims, protects whistleblowers from retaliation, and shares information with the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency.

Passage of the bipartisan legislation was spearheaded by Co-Chairman Wicker and Commissioner Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (RI) in the Senate and former Commissioners Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (TX-18) and Rep. Michael Burgess (TX-26) in the House of Representatives.

"This legislation is a great bipartisan accomplishment for the rights of athletes, the protection of whistleblowers, and our common goal of keeping criminals out of international sports," said Co-Chairman Wicker.

The commission also organized briefings to draw attention to issues like [money laundering](#) and [official corruption](#), as well as to share best practices on [innovative corruption policies](#).

Infographics





U.S. HELSINKI COMMISSION LEADERSHIP ON RACIAL JUSTICE

2008 – 2020

The Helsinki Commission holds its first hearings exploring the situation of **Black Europeans** and **racism in Europe in the 21st century**; the resulting call for a transatlantic partnership to address racism launches more than a decade of Helsinki Commission activities.

At the second **Transatlantic Minority Political Leadership Conference (TMPLC)** supporting representative democracies, U.S. and European legislators including Chairman Hastings call for governments to adopt a U.S.-E.U. Joint Strategy on Racial and Ethnic Equality.

TMPLC support for diverse youth political participation leads to the creation of the successful **Transatlantic Inclusion Leaders Network**, launched by the Helsinki Commission in partnership with the State Department, the German Marshall Fund of the United States, and other organizations.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly adopts a **resolution** by Chairman Hastings and Netherlands MP Kathleen Ferrier commemorating the International Year for People of African Descent and calling for an OSCE Action plan to counter racism and xenophobia.

Helsinki Commissioners join Black parliamentarians from Europe and racial justice advocates in launching Europe's first People of African Descent week (**PADWEEK**).

The Helsinki Commission launches "Human Rights at Home" **hearing** series focusing on racial injustice in the United States and the global impact of protests following the death of **George Floyd**.

Chairman Hastings introduces legislation—including **H.R. 6239** and **H.R. 6240**—strengthening transatlantic democracies through diversity, inclusion, and racial justice policies, and promoting diversity and inclusion in the federal workforce.

Chairman Hastings, Rep. John Lewis, and Rep. Gregory W. Meeks **secure federal funding** language to help foster diversity and inclusion in international affairs and provide protections for minority and indigenous populations abroad.

Chairman Hastings and other Helsinki Commissioners **call for comprehensive action** by the European Union to address anti-Black racism abroad.

2008

2009

2011

2013

2014

2017

2018

2019

2020

Chairman Hastings and European parliamentarians convene the inaugural **Black European Summit** launching the **Transatlantic Minority Political Leadership Conference (TMPLC)** and more than a decade of transatlantic initiatives to address racism.

The Helsinki Commission organizes a **tenation delegation** of Black Europeans from OSCE participating States to learn effective ways to combat racism and discrimination.

The Helsinki Commission supports the first EU-wide **publication** on Black European policy recommendations, **Invisible Visible Minority**.

The Helsinki Commission hosts an **event** featuring MEP Soraya Post, one of only two Roma members of the European Parliament, who led historic efforts to address the structural, far-reaching aspects, practices, and manifestations of anti-Roma discrimination.

Chairman Hastings introduces legislation to protect and promote the rights of people of African descent worldwide (**H.R. 1877**) and to recognize Black Europeans' fight for inclusion (**H.R. 256**).

The Helsinki Commission works with the U.S. State Department to launch a **new program** empowering young people in the OSCE region to collaborate across diverse social, cultural, religious, and generational differences to promote positive change through democratic practices.

The Helsinki Commission hosts a **hearing** where European legislators call for transatlantic action to address racism and foster inclusion.

MEP Samira Rafaela, the first woman of Afro-Caribbean descent to win a seat in the European Parliament, joins a Helsinki Commission **podcast** to discuss opportunities for the United States and Europe to achieve a long-term vision of stable, and sustainable, and inclusive democracies.

A Helsinki Commission **event** explores apologies, reparations, reconciliation, and healing in response to historic injustices, including the Holocaust, the transatlantic slave trade, and genocides.

Catalog of Events & Press

Hearings

U.S. PRIORITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT AT THE OSCE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 08, 2020

From urgent crises in Belarus and the Caucasus to the ongoing Russia-fueled war in Ukraine, all three dimensions of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)'s definition of comprehensive security—military, economic and human—are under strain. Ambassador Philip T. Reeker, U.S. State Department...

<https://www.osce.org/international-impact/events/us-priorities-engagement-osce>

RACIAL EQUITY, EQUALITY, AND JUSTICE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

On September 22, members of the U.S. Helsinki Commission and select other Members of Congress met virtually with 20 Members of the European Parliament to discuss how best to combat racism and systemic discrimination and promote equality on both sides of the Atlantic. Following the event, which was organized by...

<https://www.osce.org/international-impact/events/racial-equity-equality-and-justice>

ALBANIA'S CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE OSCE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

In 2020, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) has faced the unprecedented challenge of a global pandemic while many participating States struggle—or fail—to live up to their commitments in the areas of human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. In this context, the Helsinki Commission...

<https://www.osce.org/international-impact/events/albanias-chairmanship-osce>

HUMAN RIGHTS AT HOME: VALUES MADE VISIBLE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2020

Statues, monuments, memorials, and museums—and the events and people they represent—may become societal or even interstate flashpoints. They also have the potential to help heal wounds, educate the public, and inform policymaking as leaders seek to address historic wrongs, bridge divisions, and build a shared...

<https://www.osce.org/international-impact/events/human-rights-home-values-made-visible>

HUMAN RIGHTS AT HOME: MEDIA, POLITICS, AND SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS

THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2020

According to the U.S. Press Freedom Tracker, there have been nearly 500 reported press freedom violations since the beginning of the Black Lives Matter protests in the United States on May 26. In many cases, reporters have been injured, harassed, or arrested even after explicitly identifying themselves as members of the press...

<https://www.osce.org/international-impact/events/human-rights-home-media-politics-and-safety-journalists>

HUMAN RIGHTS AT HOME: IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. LEADERSHIP

THURSDAY, JULY 02, 2020

Recent developments in the United States—including George Floyd's tragic death at the hands of police and subsequent protests—have put U.S. human rights commitments to the test in the eyes of the world. On July 2, 2020, the Helsinki Commission held a hearing on "Human Rights at Home: Implications for U.S..."

<https://www.osce.org/international-impact/events/human-rights-home-implications-us-leadership>

MOLDOVA

TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2020

Presidential elections in Moldova are quickly approaching. However, the country's self-proclaimed "technocratic" government has yet to demonstrate a departure from the country's post-Soviet history of grand kleptocracy and political strife. Moldovans have demanded greater access to the global economy through European...

<https://www.csce.gov/international-impact/events/moldova>

THE POWER AND PURPOSE OF PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 05, 2020

While diplomats largely drive a nation's foreign policy, elected members of national parliaments, including the U.S. Congress, also play a crucial role in influencing policy priorities, holding governments accountable, and providing a firmer democratic foundation to the advancement of peace, cooperation, and human rights...

<https://www.csce.gov/international-impact/events/power-and-purpose-parliamentary-diplomacy>

HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2020

For nearly three decades, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) has been at the forefront of efforts to promote human rights and democracy throughout the 57-nation OSCE region. Although best known for international election...

<https://www.csce.gov/international-impact/events/human-rights-and-democracy>

LIFE UNDER OCCUPATION

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2020

Nearly six years into Russia's illegal occupation of Crimea, the human rights situation there continues to deteriorate. Russian authorities have restricted freedom of speech and assembly, suppressed civil society activity, persecuted religious and ethnic minorities, muzzled dissent, and continue to implement an aggressive...

<https://www.csce.gov/international-impact/events/life-under-occupation>

AI, UAVS, HYPERSONICS, AND AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2020

If you reach a login page when attempting to view the video, please hit the "back" button and try the link again. On January 22, 2019, the Helsinki Commission held a field hearing on the development of emerging technologies and transatlantic security at the University of Texas at Arlington. Helsinki Commissioner Rep. Marc...

<https://www.csce.gov/international-impact/events/ai-uavs-hypersonics-and-autonomous-systems>

PUBLIC DIPLOMACY, DEMOCRACY, AND GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 05, 2019

For more than a century, the United States has advanced shared human rights, economic, and security policy goals in the transatlantic relationship by cultivating people-to-people ties through public diplomacy initiatives. As democracies around the world face new challenges emanating from demographic shifts...

<https://www.csce.gov/international-impact/events/public-diplomacy-democracy-and-global-leadership>

NOT-SO-GOOD NEIGHBORS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2019

As a new generation of political leaders in Belarus seeks to forge closer ties with the West, the Kremlin has stepped up influence and disinformation campaigns designed to erode Belarusian sovereignty and exploit the strong historical, cultural, and economic ties between the two nations. Expert witnesses examined how...

<https://www.csce.gov/international-impact/events/not-so-good-neighbors>

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE OPEN SKIES TREATY

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2019

The Trump administration reportedly is considering withdrawing the United States from the Open Skies Treaty, a key arms control agreement that has enjoyed bipartisan support for decades. The treaty underpins security and stability in Europe by providing for unarmed aerial observation flights over its 34 signatories. The...

<https://www.csce.gov/international-impact/events/importance-open-skies-treaty>

AT WHAT COST?

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2019

Sparked by the recent Turkish military offensive in northeastern Syria, increased tensions between the United States and Turkey have reignited the debate about the future of U.S.-Turkish bilateral relations. The Helsinki Commission convened this hearing to discuss how the United States should respond to the Turkish...

<https://www.csce.gov/international-impact/events/what-cost>

REFORM IN ARMENIA

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2019

Last year, peaceful mass protests swept Armenia's ruling party out of power, ending its more than two decades at the helm of Armenian politics. Protest leader and opposition legislator Nikol Pashinyan rode the wave of what has been termed Armenia's Velvet Revolution to a landslide victory in national elections in December...

<https://www.csce.gov/international-impact/events/reform-armenia>

TOOLS OF TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2019

To silence dissent from abroad, autocrats often turn to the International Criminal Police Organization, known as INTERPOL, to file bogus criminal claims seeking the arrest and extradition of their political targets. This abuse of INTERPOL Red Notices and Diffusions enables autocratic governments to harass and intimidate...

<https://www.csce.gov/international-impact/events/tools-transnational-repression>

THE STATE OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN EUROPE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2019

The U.S. Helsinki Commission convened the hearing, "The State of Diversity and Inclusion in Europe: Race, Rights, and Politics" one week ahead of the OSCE's annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM), which included a focus on hate crimes and Roma populations, and the European Union's first ever...

<https://www.csce.gov/international-impact/events/state-diversity-and-inclusion-europe>

STATE OF MEDIA FREEDOM IN THE OSCE REGION

THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2019

Journalists working in the 57 participating States of the Organization for Security and Cooperation (OSCE) are facing increased risks to their lives and safety. According to a new report released the Office of the Representative for Freedom of the Media, in the first six months of 2019, two journalists have been killed and...

<https://www.csce.gov/international-impact/events/state-media-freedom-osce-region>

RESPONDING TO HATE

TUESDAY, JULY 16, 2019

In the past year alone, places of worship in Christchurch, Colombo, Pittsburgh, and Poway were targets of hate-based violence, resulting in the tragic loss of more than 300 lives. Effectively countering hate crimes requires a comprehensive effort bringing together government institutions, criminal justice systems, civil society...

<https://www.csce.gov/international-impact/events/responding-hate>

BALTIC SEA REGIONAL SECURITY

TUESDAY, JULY 02, 2019

For the first time in its 43-year history, the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the U.S. Helsinki Commission, convened outside of the United States for a field hearing to underscore America's commitment to security in the Baltic Sea region and its unwavering support for U.S. friends and...

<https://www.csce.gov/international-impact/events/baltic-sea-regional-security>

RUSSIA'S COUNTERPRODUCTIVE COUNTERTERRORISM

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2019

Russia's counterterrorism approach, which is problematic in both conception and execution, makes Moscow an ill-suited partner with the United States in this field, experts told the U.S. Helsinki Commission at a hearing on June 12, 2019. The hearing closely examined the development, history, and repercussions of the...

<https://www.csce.gov/international-impact/events/russias-counterproductive-counterterrorism>

SLOVAKIA'S CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE OSCE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 03, 2019

In 2019, Slovakia holds the chairmanship of the world's largest regional security organization: the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), which brings together 57 countries from North America, Europe and Central Asia. At the Helsinki Commission's first hearing in the 116th Congress held on April 3...

<https://www.csce.gov/international-impact/events/slovakias-chairmanship-osce>

Briefings

EUROPE WHOLE AND FREE? THE FUTURE OF THE OSCE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 03, 2020

On November 20, the Woodrow Wilson Center, in cooperation with the U.S. Helsinki Commission, hosted “Europe Whole and Free: The Future of the OSCE.” The event discussed a divided Europe and the responsibility of the United States to help obtain peace on the continent. The event featured Helsinki Commission...

<https://www.csce.gov/international-impact/events/europe-whole-and-free-future-osce>

8:46 (GEORGE FLOYD)

FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2020

George Floyd’s tragic death at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer—recorded for a wrenching eight minutes and 46 seconds—shocked the world. During this online briefing, political and civil rights leaders from the United States and Europe discussed the impact made by resulting protests and the need to change...

<https://www.csce.gov/international-impact/events/846-george-floyd>

DISINFORMATION, COVID-19, AND THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2020

Listen to audio of the briefing on Facebook. Free and fair elections are one of the most fundamental measures of a democratic society. During the 2016 presidential elections, many Americans became aware for the first time that disinformation can be easily coupled with technology by state and nonstate actors to disrupt and...

<https://www.csce.gov/international-impact/events/disinformation-covid-19-and-electoral-process>

ALBANIA'S LEADERSHIP IN EUROPE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2019

Each year, one participating State of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) is selected by the others to chair the 57-member organization. Since the role of OSCE “Chair-in-Office” was inaugurated in 1991, the organization has responded to numerous conflicts and crises in the Western Balkans. As the...

<https://www.csce.gov/international-impact/events/albanias-leadership-europe>

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE MONEY

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 03, 2019

As the countries of the Western Balkans continue to seek the integration that promises stability and prosperity, the inability to genuinely confront and overcome official corruption through good governance measures has undoubtedly slowed their progress. Foreign investment—vital to improved economic performance—is...

<https://www.csce.gov/international-impact/events/its-all-about-money>

PUTIN'S SHADOW WARRIORS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 06, 2019

Reports of shadowy Russian mercenaries in unexpected locations have grown more frequent and alarming. Yet, western understanding of the Kremlin’s use of private contractors — useful to Moscow for their deniability and relatively low cost — remains limited. Policy responses can be complicated by the potential...

<https://www.csce.gov/international-impact/events/putins-shadow-warriors>

PIPELINE POLITICS

TUESDAY, JULY 23, 2019

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) promotes a strong and vibrant transatlantic relationship and fosters a peaceful and prosperous European continent. Slovakia, which holds the 2019 OSCE chairmanship, considers energy security a priority for what the OSCE terms the second dimension, the...

<https://www.osce.org/international-impact/events/pipeline-politics>

TRUTH, RECONCILIATION, AND HEALING

THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2019

Today, many countries seek to address historic wrongs, heal wounds, bridge divisions, and build a shared future. Truth and reconciliation efforts to encourage restitution, reparations, and restorative justice have been called for in many places, including the United States, Western Europe, Canada, and the Balkans, while...

<https://www.osce.org/international-impact/press-and-media/press-releases/truth-reconciliation-and-healing-focus-upcoming>

INTERNATIONAL ELECTION OBSERVATION IN THE U.S. AND BEYOND

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2019

In 1990, the 57 participating States of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) pledged to hold free and fair elections. Election observation is one of the most transparent and methodical ways to encourage countries to uphold their commitment to democratic standards, and is a core element of the...

<https://www.osce.org/international-impact/events/international-election-observation-us-and-beyond>

PARTIALLY PROTECTED?

FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2019

The U.S. Helsinki Commission convened an expert briefing on the background, implementation, and legal and political implications of temporary protection for people in the United States and Europe who come from countries of conflict or natural disaster but not qualify for asylum. The discussion explored whether some...

<https://www.osce.org/international-impact/events/partially-protected>

WHY MOLDOVA MATTERS

TUESDAY, JUNE 04, 2019

Though typically viewed as a state torn between Russian influence and the West, Moldova faces not only external problems but also serious internal challenges. Following February elections marked by corruption and vote-buying, Moldova's deeply divided parliament now must attempt to form a governing coalition. In...

<https://www.osce.org/international-impact/events/why-moldova-matters>

CURBING CORRUPTION THROUGH CORPORATE TRANSPARENCY AND COLLABORATION

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 2019

The United Kingdom has implemented some of the world's most innovative anti-corruption policies. In particular, its public beneficial ownership registry is the only active one of its kind and its Joint Money Laundering Intelligence Taskforce models effective collaboration between law enforcement and the private sector. This...

<https://www.osce.org/international-impact/events/curbing-corruption-through-corporate-transparency-and-collaboration>

SHADY SHIPPING

FRIDAY, MAY 24, 2019

Trade-based money laundering (TBML) is the process of disguising the proceeds of crime and moving value through trade transactions in an attempt to legitimize their illicit origins. This highly sophisticated form of money laundering has become a favorite method for transnational criminals, dictators, and terrorists to move...

<https://www.csce.gov/international-impact/events/shady-shipping>

POWER AND POLITICS

THURSDAY, MAY 09, 2019

At this Helsinki Commission briefing, panelists explored the state of institutional resilience and political context for the election of Volodymyr Zelenskiy as Ukraine's next president on April 21, 2019. This briefing also explored implications for transatlantic engagement and opportunities for reforms on issues related to...

<https://www.csce.gov/international-impact/events/power-and-politics>

DEVELOPMENTS IN HUNGARY

TUESDAY, APRIL 09, 2019

At this Helsinki Commission briefing, Susan Corke, Senior Fellow and Director of the Transatlantic Democracy Working Group at the German Marshall Fund; Melissa Hooper, Director of Human Rights and Civil Society at Human Rights First; and Dalibor Rohac, Research Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute...

<https://www.csce.gov/international-impact/events/developments-hungary>

ASSET RECOVERY IN EURASIA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2019

Asset recovery—the process of repatriating funds previously stolen by corrupt officials—remains one of the most contentious points in the fight against transnational corruption. Though only a small percentage of stolen funds are ever recovered, major questions exist about the best ways to ensure that repatriated...

<https://www.csce.gov/international-impact/events/asset-recovery-eurasia>

Press Releases

CO-CHAIRMAN WICKER URGES RUSSIA TO REVERSE EXPULSION OF VANESSA KOGAN

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2020

WASHINGTON—Following reports last week that Russian authorities cancelled U.S. citizen and human rights lawyer Vanessa Kogan’s residency permit and ordered her to leave the country by mid-December, Helsinki Commission Co-Chairman Sen. Roger Wicker (MS) issued the following statement: “The type of human rights...

CO-CHAIRMAN WICKER ON SECRETARY OF STATE’S NEW DESIGNATIONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS...

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2020

WASHINGTON—Following U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo’s December 7 designations for Countries of Particular Concern (CPC) and the Special Watch List for the worst religious freedom violations, Helsinki Commission Co-Chairman Sen. Roger Wicker (MS) issued the following statement: “Secretary Pompeo...

AMBASSADOR PHILIP T. REEKER TO TESTIFY AT HELSINKI COMMISSION HEARING ON U.S. ENGAGEMENT AT...

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2020

WASHINGTON—The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, today announced the following hearing: U.S. PRIORITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT AT THE OSCE Tuesday, December 8, 2020 10:00 a.m. Watch Live: www.youtube.com/HelsinkiCommission From urgent crises...

CHAIRMAN HASTINGS REGRETS U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM OPEN SKIES TREATY

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2020

WASHINGTON—With the Trump administration slated to complete its withdrawal from the Treaty on Open Skies on Sunday, November 22, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) issued the following statement: “While it appears the Open Skies Treaty will survive the Trump administration’s...

RODCHENKOV ACT PASSES SENATE, GOES TO PRESIDENT FOR SIGNATURE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2020

WASHINGTON—Yesterday, the Rodchenkov Anti-Doping Act (H.R. 835) passed the U.S. Senate, completing its course through both chambers of Congress. The bill now goes to President Donald Trump for signature. Passage of the bipartisan legislation has been spearheaded by Helsinki Commission Co-Chairman Sen. Roger...

HASTINGS AND WICKER CALL FOR FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS, ANTI-CORRUPTION ACTION, AND PROTECTION...

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2020

WASHINGTON—In response to the tumultuous change of power in Kyrgyzstan, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) and Co-Chairman Sen. Roger Wicker (MS) issued the following statement: “Kyrgyzstan should ensure that changes to its electoral system adhere to the rule of law, are transparent...

CHAIRMAN HASTINGS COMMENDS CYPRUS FOR ENDING GOLDEN PASSPORT PROGRAM

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2020

WASHINGTON—Following the decision of Cyprus to cancel its so-called golden passport program, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) issued the following statement: “Golden passports are routinely abused by kleptocrats and crooks looking to hide their identity by using dirty money to purchase a...

RANKING MEMBER SEN. CARDIN TO JOIN OSCE EVENT ON POLICING IN DIVERSE SOCIETIES

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 01, 2020

WASHINGTON—On October 6, 2020, Helsinki Commission Ranking Member Sen. Ben Cardin (MD) will join the office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities for an online event to discuss the principles of policing in diverse societies, as well as challenges and best practices among OSCE participating...

HELSINKI COMMISSION LEADERS MOURN DEATH OF MOSCOW HELSINKI MONITORING GROUP FOUNDER YURI...

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

WASHINGTON—Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) and Co-Chairman Sen. Roger Wicker (MS) today expressed sorrow over the death on September 27 of physicist Yuri Orlov, the founder of the Moscow Helsinki Group. “Yuri Orlov truly stood out among the great 20th century human rights...

HASTINGS, WICKER, AND HUDSON CALL FOR DE-ESCALATION OF NAGORNO-KARABAKH FIGHTING

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2020

WASHINGTON—After a major outbreak of violence between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces Sunday in Nagorno-Karabakh, Helsinki Commission leaders Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20), Co-Chairman Sen. Roger Wicker (MS), and Commissioner Rep. Richard Hudson (NC-08) deplored the loss of life on both...

HELSINKI COMMISSIONERS, OTHER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS JOIN EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT FOR...

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

WASHINGTON—On September 22, 2020, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20), other Helsinki Commissioners, and select members of Congress will join members of the European Parliament’s Civil Liberties Committee and Subcommittee on Human Rights to discuss combating racism and...

CHAIRMAN HASTINGS ON CANCELLATION OF OSCE’S 2020 HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2020

WASHINGTON—Following today’s announcement by the OSCE that its annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) will exceptionally not take place in 2020, due to the “unique, unprecedented and unpredictable circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic,” Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep...

ALBANIAN PRIME MINISTER EDI RAMA TO APPEAR AT HELSINKI COMMISSION HEARING

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 09, 2020

WASHINGTON—The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, today announced the following online hearing: ALBANIA’S CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE OSCE Responding to the Multiple Challenges of 2020 Thursday, September 17, 2020 1:00 p.m. Watch Live:...

HELSINKI COMMISSION DEMANDS ANSWERS ON FAILURE OF USAGM TO RENEW J-1 VISAS FOR VOICE OF...

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 03, 2020

WASHINGTON—In a letter to U.S. Agency for Global Media (USAGM) CEO Michael Pack released today, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20), Ranking Member Sen. Ben Cardin (MD), and Helsinki Commissioners Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (NH), Rep. Emanuel Cleaver (MO-05), Rep. Steve Cohen...

HASTINGS AND WICKER CONDEMN APPARENT POISONING OF ALEXEI NAVALNY

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2020

WASHINGTON—Following today’s apparent poisoning of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) and Co-Chairman Sen. Roger Wicker (MS) issued the following joint statement: “Sadly, Alexei Navalny is the latest in a long line of Russians to be targeted for...

CHAIRMAN HASTINGS ASKS TREASURY SECRETARY TO REVOKE ACCESS TO U.S. FINANCIAL SYSTEM FOR...

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2020

WASHINGTON—In a letter to Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin released today, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) asked the U.S. administration to revoke access to the U.S. financial system for the nine largest state-owned companies in Belarus. The letter, which follows the violent...

CO-CHAIRMAN WICKER CONDEMNS FRAUDULENT ELECTION RESULTS, VIOLENCE AGAINST PROTESTERS IN...

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2020

WASHINGTON—Following the August 9 presidential election in Belarus and ongoing violence against protesters across the country, Helsinki Commission Co-Chairman Sen. Roger Wicker (MS) issued the following statement: “From the earliest stages of campaigning, Alexander Lukashenko has ruthlessly suppressed his...

CHAIRMAN HASTINGS MARKS ROMA GENOCIDE REMEMBRANCE DAY

FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2020

WASHINGTON—Ahead of Roma Genocide Remembrance Day on August 2, Helsinki Commission Chairman Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) issued the following statement: “As we mourn the mass murder of up to 5,000 Romani people in the so-called ‘Gypsy Family Camp’ at Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1944, I urge all OSCE...

**HASTINGS AND WICKER MARK WORLD DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS
THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2020**

WASHINGTON—To mark World Day against Trafficking in Persons on July 30, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) and Co-Chairman Sen. Roger Wicker (MS) issued the following joint statement: “Human trafficking is the modern equivalent of slavery, an abhorrent crime that affects up to 25...

**HASTINGS AND WICKER LAMENT DEATH OF KYRGYZ ACTIVIST AZIMJAN
ASKAROV**

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2020

WASHINGTON—Following last weekend’s death of Kyrgyz human rights defender Azimjan Askarov in prison, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) and Co-Chairman Sen. Roger Wicker (MS) issued the following statement: “We are deeply saddened by the tragic death of human rights activist...

**CHAIRMAN HASTINGS APPLAUDS RELEASE OF JUST ACT REPORT ON ASSETS
WRONGFULLY SEIZED DURING...**

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2020

WASHINGTON—Following today’s release of the JUST Act report by the U.S. Department of State, pursuant to legislation passed by Congress in 2017 and signed into law in 2018, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) issued the following statement: “I applaud the State Department officials in...

**SOCIETAL IMPACT OF PUBLIC MONUMENTS AND MEMORIALS TO BE DISCUSSED
AT HELSINKI COMMISSION...**

MONDAY, JULY 27, 2020

WASHINGTON—The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, today announced the following online hearing: HUMAN RIGHTS AT HOME Values Made Visible Wednesday, July 29, 2020 10:00 a.m. Watch Live: www.youtube.com/HelsinkiCommission Statues...

**CHAIRMAN HASTINGS, REP. MEEKS ISSUE STATEMENT ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
FUNDING FOR DIVERSITY AND...**

FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2020

WASHINGTON—Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) and Rep. Gregory W. Meeks (NY-05) today issued the following joint statement regarding the language in the Fiscal Year 2021 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs (SFOPS) appropriations bill that supports efforts to foster diversity...

**CHRISTIANE AMANPOUR TO TESTIFY AT HELSINKI COMMISSION HEARING ON
PRESS FREEDOM IN THE...**

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2020

WASHINGTON—The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, today announced the following online hearing: HUMAN RIGHTS AT HOME Media, Politics, and Safety of Journalists Thursday, July 23, 2020 11:00 a.m. Watch Live:...

HASTINGS: PETTY PAROCHIALISM DENIES OSCE VITAL LEADERSHIP DURING GLOBAL CRISIS

TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2020

WASHINGTON—Following yesterday’s failure of OSCE representatives to renew the mandates of four leadership positions—the OSCE Secretary General, the High Commissioner on National Minorities, the Representative on Freedom of the Media, and the Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human...

HASTINGS AND WICKER COMMEMORATE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF SREBRENICA GENOCIDE

FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2020

WASHINGTON—Ahead of the 25th anniversary of the genocide at Srebrenica in Bosnia and Herzegovina on Saturday, July 11, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) and Co-Chairman Sen. Roger Wicker (MS) issued the following joint statement: “Today we join those in Bosnia and Herzegovina and...

CHAIRMAN HASTINGS, HELSINKI COMMISSIONERS MOORE, CLEAVER, AND VEASEY LEAD CALL FOR...

WEDNESDAY, JULY 08, 2020

WASHINGTON—In a bicameral letter to the President of the European Commission, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) joined the Black members of the Helsinki Commission—Representatives Gwen Moore (WI-04), Emanuel Cleaver (MO-05), and Marc Veasey (TX-33)—in leading 35 other...

WICKER AND CARDIN COMMEND UNITED KINGDOM MAGNITSKY SANCTIONS ON RUSSIAN AND SAUDI...

TUESDAY, JULY 07, 2020

WASHINGTON—Following the recent designations under the United Kingdom’s Magnitsky sanctions framework of Russian and Saudi officials responsible for the deaths of Sergei Magnitsky and Jamal Khashoggi, Helsinki Commission Co-Chairman Sen. Roger Wicker (MS) and Ranking Member Sen. Ben Cardin (MD)...

HASTINGS AND WICKER DENOUNCE FRAUDULENT VOTE IN RUSSIA

THURSDAY, JULY 02, 2020

WASHINGTON—Following this week’s manipulated vote to amend Russia’s constitution to further weaken the separation of powers, strengthen the presidency, and allow President Vladimir Putin to remain in office until 2036, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) and Co-Chairman Sen. Roger...

CO-CHAIRMAN WICKER URGES SWISS GOVERNMENT TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE IN INTEGRITY OF MAGNITSKY...

THURSDAY, JULY 02, 2020

WASHINGTON—In a letter to Swiss Ambassador Jacques Pitteloud released today, Helsinki Commission Co-Chairman Sen. Roger Wicker (MS) urged the Government of Switzerland to take the necessary steps to restore confidence in the integrity of the Magnitsky investigation and ensure its timely resolution. The...

HELSINKI COMMISSION HEARING TO EXAMINE HUMAN RIGHTS AT HOME

THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2020

WASHINGTON—The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, today announced the following online hearing: HUMAN RIGHTS AT HOME Implications for U.S. Leadership Thursday, July 2, 2020 11:00 a.m. Watch Live: www.youtube.com/HelsinkiCommission By...

HASTINGS URGES BELARUS TO ALLOW REAL POLITICAL COMPETITION IN UPCOMING ELECTIONS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2020

WASHINGTON—In light of the recent crackdown on protesters and arrests of prominent presidential candidates leading up to the August 9 elections in Belarus, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) released the following statement: “Every OSCE participating State, including Belarus, commits to...

HASTINGS URGES BELARUS TO ALLOW REAL POLITICAL COMPETITION IN UPCOMING ELECTIONS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2020

WASHINGTON—In light of the recent crackdown on protesters and arrests of prominent presidential candidates leading up to the August 9 elections in Belarus, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) released the following statement: “Every OSCE participating State, including Belarus, commits to...

HASTINGS: TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS ABROAD, WE MUST FIERCELY PROTECT THEM AT HOME

MONDAY, JUNE 22, 2020

WASHINGTON—Ahead of a 57-nation OSCE meeting on freedom of expression, media, and information, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) released the following statement: “In the United States, we have witnessed a devastating series of attacks by authorities against journalists covering the...

HASTINGS: PLAGUES DO NOT STOP PERSECUTION

FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 2020

WASHINGTON—Ahead of World Refugee Day on June 20, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) issued the following statement: “The COVID-19 pandemic has exponentially multiplied the overwhelming challenges already faced by refugees and asylum seekers worldwide. To stop the spread of the...

CHAIRMAN HASTINGS DEMANDS RELEASE OF PAUL WHELAN

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2020

WASHINGTON—Following the sentencing of U.S. citizen Paul Whelan to 16 years in a maximum-security prison by a Russian court, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) issued the following statement: “In clear violation of Russia’s OSCE commitments, Paul Whelan was denied his right to...

POLITICAL AND CIVIL RIGHTS LEADERS TO DISCUSS IMPACT OF GEORGE FLOYD'S DEATH AT HELSINKI...

TUESDAY, JUNE 09, 2020

WASHINGTON—The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, today announced the following staff-led online briefing: 8:46 (GEORGE FLOYD) A Time for Transformation at Home and Abroad Friday, June 12, 2020 10:00 a.m. Register to attend. George Floyd's tragic...

HELSINKI COMMISSIONERS URGE HUNGARIAN OFFICIALS NOT TO STOKE HISTORIC GRIEVANCES

FRIDAY, JUNE 05, 2020

WASHINGTON—Following the erection of a new memorial in Hungary marking the 100th anniversary of the Treaty of Trianon, which features the names of thousands of historic municipalities formerly part of pre-World War I Hungary, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) and Commissioner...

HELSINKI COMMISSION CHAIRMAN CONDEMNS REPORTED U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM OPEN SKIES TREATY...

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2020

WASHINGTON—Following reports that the Trump administration has notified other governments of its intent to withdraw from the Treaty on Open Skies, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) issued the following statement: "The Open Skies Treaty has underpinned transatlantic security for...

HASTINGS AND WICKER CALL FOR RELEASE OF KYRGYZ ACTIVIST AZIMJAN ASKAROV

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2020

WASHINGTON—In response to the May 13 decision of the Supreme Court of Kyrgyzstan to uphold the life sentence of Kyrgyz human rights defender Azimjan Askarov, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) and Co-Chairman Sen. Roger Wicker (MS) issued the following statement: "We are...

CO-CHAIRMAN WICKER COMMENDS DECISION BY BELARUS TO REFUSE EXTRADITION OF JEHOVAH'S...

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2020

WASHINGTON—Following the April decision by the Prosecutor General of Belarus to reject the Government of Russia's request to extradite a Russian national to face criminal charges for being a Jehovah's Witness, Helsinki Commission Co-Chairman Sen. Roger Wicker (MS) issued the following statement: "I commend the...

HELSINKI COMMISSION BRIEFING TO EXAMINE CORROSIVE IMPACT OF DISINFORMATION ON THE ELECTORAL...

MONDAY, MAY 18, 2020

WASHINGTON—The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, today announced the following briefing: DISINFORMATION, COVID-19, AND THE ELECTORAL PROCESS Thursday, May 21, 2020 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Register to attend. Free and fair elections are...

HASTINGS AND WICKER TROUBLED BY MOUNTING HARASSMENT OF OPPOSITION MEMBERS, ACTIVISTS, AND...

MONDAY, MAY 11, 2020

WASHINGTON—In response to the Government of Azerbaijan’s mounting harassment of Azerbaijani opposition members, activists, and journalists, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) and Co-Chairman Sen. Roger Wicker (MS) issued the following statement: “During this pandemic, public...

WICKER AND CARDIN URGE POMPEO TO WORK WITH EU HIGH REPRESENTATIVE TO ADVANCE EU MAGNITSKY...

MONDAY, MAY 11, 2020

WASHINGTON—In a letter released today, Helsinki Commission Co-Chairman Sen. Roger Wicker (MS) and Ranking Member Sen. Ben Cardin (MD) urged U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to ask the EU’s High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borell, to expedite the adoption of EU sanctions...

CHAIRMAN HASTINGS AND CO-CHAIRMAN WICKER COMMEMORATE WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY

FRIDAY, MAY 01, 2020

WASHINGTON—Ahead of World Press Freedom Day on May 3, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) and Co-Chairman Sen. Roger Wicker (MS) issued the following statements: “Given these uncertain and unprecedented times, it is more important than ever that journalists and media...

HASTINGS, WICKER, MOORE, AND HUDSON MARK THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF JOSEPH STONE’S DEATH IN...

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2020

WASHINGTON—Three years after the death of Joseph Stone, a U.S. paramedic serving with the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) in Ukraine, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) recalled Stone’s tragic death in the Russia-driven conflict and lamented the suffering of civilians who remain...

HELSINKI COMMISSION LEADERS APPALLED BY LATEST ATTACKS ON PRESS FREEDOM IN RUSSIA

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2020

WASHINGTON—Following recent threats to the life of Russian journalist Yelena Milashina by Chechnya’s leader Ramzan Kadyrov and the forced removal of her Novaya Gazeta article on the coronavirus response in Chechnya by Russia’s media regulatory agency, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings...

CHAIRMAN HASTINGS MARKS INTERNATIONAL ROMA DAY, NOTES CONSEQUENCES OF SYSTEMIC RACISM...

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 08, 2020

WASHINGTON—To mark the occasion of International Roma Day on April 8, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) issued the following statement: “This year, we sadly must put aside many of the annual celebrations of Romani art, culture, music, and heritage that usually mark International Roma...

CHAIRMAN HASTINGS DENOUNCES UNCHECKED POWER GRANTED TO HUNGARY’S PRIME MINISTER ORBAN

THURSDAY, APRIL 02, 2020

WASHINGTON—Following the Hungarian Parliament’s decision on Monday to accept Prime Minister Viktor Orban’s request for unlimited power to rule by decree in response to the coronavirus pandemic, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) issued the following statement: “Prime Minister Orban...

CHAIRMAN HASTINGS INTRODUCES LITE ACT TO STRENGTHEN TIES WITH U.S. ALLIES, SUPPORT VISIONARY...

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2020

WASHINGTON—Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) yesterday introduced the Leadership Institute for Transatlantic Engagement (LITE) Act (H.R.6239) to strengthen ties with U.S. allies, protect democratic institutions, and support visionary leadership on both sides of the Atlantic. “Numerous...

CHAIRMAN HASTINGS INTRODUCES BILL TO PROMOTE DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN THE FEDERAL...

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2020

WASHINGTON—Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) yesterday introduced H.R.6240, a bill to establish a government-wide diversity and inclusion plan to ensure fair access and opportunity to federal jobs for all Americans. “Estimates indicate that by 2050, more than half of the U.S. workforce will be..

HELSINKI COMMISSION LEADERS COMMEND POLITICAL COMPROMISE IN GEORGIA

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2020

WASHINGTON—After a March 8 announcement that Georgia’s political leadership reached a deal paving the way for the adoption of compromise electoral reforms ahead of the October 2020 parliamentary election, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) and Co-Chairman Sen. Roger Wicker (MS)...

MOLDOVAN GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY TO BE DISCUSSED AT HELSINKI COMMISSION HEARING

THURSDAY, MARCH 05, 2020

WASHINGTON—The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, today announced the following hearing: MOLDOVA Access and Accountability Tuesday, March 10, 2020 12:30 p.m. Rayburn House Office Building Room 2200 Live Webcast:...

HELSINKI COMMISSION CHAIRMAN CONDEMNS RUSSIAN-BACKED SYRIAN GOVERNMENT OFFENSIVE IN IDLIB

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 04, 2020

WASHINGTON—In response to mounting casualties from clashes between Turkish and Russian-backed Syrian forces in northwestern Syria and the Turkish government’s decision to open its borders to refugee flows toward mainland Europe, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) issued the...

CHAIRMAN HASTINGS ON ANNIVERSARIES OF SUMGAIT POGROM AND KHOJALY MASSACRE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2020

WASHINGTON—Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) yesterday issued a floor statement on the anniversaries of the Sumgait Pogrom and the Khojaly Massacre, two pivotal tragedies in the decades-long conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the territory of Nagorno Karabakh. The...

CHAIRMAN HASTINGS, CO-CHAIRMAN WICKER COMMEMORATE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF NEMTSOV MURDER

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2020

WASHINGTON—On the five-year anniversary of the murder of Russian opposition politician Boris Nemtsov, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) and Co-Chairman Sen. Roger Wicker (MS) issued the following statements: “We must never forget the ultimate price Boris Nemtsov paid for...

CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION LED BY CHAIRMAN HASTINGS CHAMPIONS U.S. LEADERSHIP IN...

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2020

WASHINGTON—Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) last week led a bicameral, bipartisan congressional delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly’s (OSCE PA) 19th Winter Meeting in Vienna, Austria. At the meeting, Chairman Hastings and other members of the delegation engaged...

TRANSATLANTIC NETWORK OF YOUNG LEGISLATORS RELEASES JOINT DECLARATION ON FUTURE...

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2020

WASHINGTON—Following a two-day seminar hosted by the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (U.S. Helsinki Commission) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA) in early February, nearly 20 young legislators from OSCE participating...

MEDIA ADVISORY: CHAIRMAN HASTINGS, OSCE PA PRESIDENT TSERETELI, AND COMMISSIONER MOORE TO...

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2020

WASHINGTON—To empower future leaders in the North America, Europe, Central Asia, and beyond, the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (U.S. Helsinki Commission), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA), and other partners will convene a...

POWER OF PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY TO BE DISCUSSED AT HELSINKI COMMISSION HEARING

MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2020

WASHINGTON—The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, today announced the following hearing: THE POWER AND PURPOSE OF PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY Inter-Parliamentary Initiatives and the U.S. Contribution Wednesday, February 5, 2020 9:30...

DIRECTOR OF OSCE OFFICE FOR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS TO TESTIFY AT HELSINKI...

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2020

WASHINGTON—The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, today announced the following hearing: HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY Obstacles and Opportunities in the OSCE Region Wednesday, January 29, 2020 10:00 a.m. Longworth House Office...

HELSINKI COMMISSION TO HOLD HEARING ON DETERIORATING HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CRIMEA

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2020

WASHINGTON—The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, today announced the following hearing: LIFE UNDER OCCUPATION The State of Human Rights in Crimea Tuesday, January 28, 2020 10:00 a.m. Cannon House Office Building Room 210 Live Webcast:...

HELSINKI COMMISSION FIELD HEARING IN DALLAS TO EXAMINE IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE ON...

MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2020

WASHINGTON—The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the U.S. Helsinki Commission, today announced a field hearing to be held in Dallas, TX to examine the nature and impact of accelerating technological change on transatlantic security, as well as the potential for international...

CHAIRMAN HASTINGS URGES UKRAINE TO GRANT AKHMETOVA POLITICAL ASYLUM

MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2020

WASHINGTON—Ahead of Tuesday’s trial to determine whether journalist and activist Zhanara Akhmetova will be granted political asylum in Ukraine or face extradition to her home country of Kazakhstan, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) released the following statement: “By granting...

CO-CHAIRMAN WICKER INTRODUCES UKRAINE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM SUPPORT ACT IN SENATE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2019

WASHINGTON—Helsinki Commission Co-Chairman Sen. Roger Wicker (MS) yesterday introduced the Ukraine Religious Freedom Support Act (S. 3064) in the Senate. The legislation would combat Russia’s religious freedom violations in the Crimea and Donbas regions of Ukraine. Helsinki Commission Ranking Member...

HELSINKI COMMISSIONERS INTRODUCE UKRAINE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM SUPPORT ACT

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2019

WASHINGTON—Helsinki Commission Ranking Member Rep. Joe Wilson (SC-02) and Commissioner Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, II (MO-05) yesterday introduced the bipartisan Ukraine Religious Freedom Support Act (H.R. 5408) in the House of Representatives. The legislation combats Russia’s religious freedom violations in...

SENATORS CARDIN AND WICKER INTRODUCE COUNTERING RUSSIAN AND OTHER OVERSEAS KLEPTOCRACY...

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2019

WASHINGTON—Helsinki Commission Ranking Member Sen. Ben Cardin (MD) and Co-Chairman Sen. Roger Wicker (MS) today introduced the Countering Russian and Other Overseas Kleptocracy (CROOK) Act (S. 3026). The CROOK Act would establish an anti-corruption action fund to provide extra funding during...

HELSINKI COMMISSION BRIEFING TO PROVIDE PARLIAMENTARY PERSPECTIVE ON ALBANIA’S UPCOMING...

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 05, 2019

WASHINGTON—The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, today announced the following staff-led briefing: ALBANIA’S LEADERSHIP IN EUROPE Parliamentary Perspectives of the Albanian OSCE Chairmanship in 2020 Wednesday, December 11, 2019 2:00..

HELSINKI COMMISSION TO REVIEW ROLE OF PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGES IN STRENGTHENING DEMOCRATIC...

MONDAY, DECEMBER 02, 2019

WASHINGTON—The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, today announced the following hearing: PUBLIC DIPLOMACY, DEMOCRACY, AND GLOBAL LEADERSHIP An Approach for the 21st Century Thursday, December 5, 2019 10:00 a.m. Longworth House...

CORRUPTION IN THE WESTERN BALKANS FOCUS OF UPCOMING HELSINKI COMMISSION BRIEFING

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2019

WASHINGTON—The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, today announced the following briefing: IT’S ALL ABOUT THE MONEY Corruption as a Brake on Balkan Recovery Tuesday, December 3, 2019 2:00 p.m. Cannon House Office Building Room 210 Live...

HELSINKI COMMISSION LEADERS MARK 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH OF SERGEI MAGNITSKY

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2019

WASHINGTON—Ahead of the ten-year anniversary of Sergei Magnitsky’s death on November 16, Helsinki Commission leaders issued the following statements: “Sergei Magnitsky was a fearless truth-teller who wanted to make his country a better place,” said Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20). “Unfortunately, his...

HELSINKI COMMISSION HEARING TO EXAMINE RUSSIAN INFLUENCE IN BELARUS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2019

WASHINGTON—The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, today announced the following hearing: NOT-SO-GOOD NEIGHBORS Russian Influence in Belarus Wednesday, November 20, 2019 10:00 a.m. Rayburn House Office Building Room 2200 Live Webcast:...

HELSINKI COMMISSION AND SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE, EURASIA, ENERGY,
AND THE ENVIRONMENT TO...

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2019

WASHINGTON—The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, Energy, and the Environment have announced the following hearing: THE IMPORTANCE OF THE OPEN SKIES...

HELSINKI COMMISSION LEADERS COMMEMORATE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 08, 2019

WASHINGTON—Ahead of the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall on November 9, Helsinki Commission leaders issued the following statements: “In 1989, history hit the fast-forward button; what had seemed impossible for four decades suddenly seemed inevitable,” said Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings...

HELSINKI COMMISSION TO HOST BRIEFING ON KREMLIN MERCENARIES
ABROAD

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2019

WASHINGTON—The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, today announced the following briefing: PUTIN’S SHADOW WARRIORS Mercenaries, Security Contracting, and the Way Ahead Wednesday, November 6, 2019 10:00 a.m. Rayburn House Office...

HASTINGS AND CARDIN CONDEMN MOB ATTACK ON BUDAPEST COMMUNITY
CENTER

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2019

WASHINGTON—Following Wednesday’s mob attack on Aurora, a small Jewish community center that provides office space to civil society groups in Budapest, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) and Ranking Member Sen. Ben Cardin (MD) issued the following statements: “Wednesday’s mob...

HELSINKI COMMISSION HEARING TO REVIEW HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS
IN TURKEY

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2019

WASHINGTON—The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, today announced the following hearing: AT WHAT COST? The Human Toll of Turkey’s Policy at Home and Abroad Thursday, October 31, 2019 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Rayburn House Office Building Room..

HELSINKI COMMISSION TO REVIEW NEW WAYS TO FIGHT FOREIGN BRIBERY

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2019

THIS HEARING HAS BEEN POSTPONED. RESCHEDULING INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE SHORTLY. WASHINGTON—The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, today announced the following hearing: ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVES TO FIGHT...

HELSINKI COMMISSION HEARING TO EXAMINE DEMOCRATIC REFORMS IN ARMENIA

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2019

WASHINGTON—The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, today announced the following hearing: REFORM IN ARMENIA Assessing Progress and Opportunities for U.S. Policy Tuesday, October 22, 2019 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Cannon House Office...

CHAIRMAN HASTINGS ON YOM KIPPUR SHOOTING OUTSIDE GERMAN SYNAGOGUE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2019

WASHINGTON—Following yesterday’s shooting outside of a synagogue in Halle, Germany, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) issued the following statement: “I am heartbroken to hear about the shooting near a synagogue in Germany where Jewish worshippers gathered to observe Yom Kippur. I...

CO-CHAIRMAN WICKER STATEMENT ON DEVELOPMENTS IN NORTHERN SYRIA

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2019

WASHINGTON—Helsinki Commission Co-Chairman Sen. Roger Wicker (MS) today issued the following statement on reports that Turkey has launched an attack on Kurdish troops in northern Syria: “Kurdish troops bravely fought alongside Americans and our other allies to defeat the ISIS caliphate. The small deployment of...

CHAIRMAN HASTINGS LEADS BIPARTISAN DELEGATION TO TUNISIA, ISRAEL, AND MOROCCO

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 08, 2019

WASHINGTON—From September 28 to October 6, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) led a bipartisan, bicameral U.S. delegation to Tunisia, Israel, and Morocco to assess the state of security, human rights, and democracy in the Middle East and North Africa. The delegation concluded with the...

CO-CHAIRMAN WICKER WELCOMES CONFIRMATION OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY DESTRO

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2019

WASHINGTON—Helsinki Commission Co-Chairman Sen. Roger Wicker (MS) today welcomed the confirmation of Robert A. Destro to serve as the Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor. The Assistant Secretary traditionally also serves as the State Department’s representative on the...

HELSINKI COMMISSION LEADERS APPOINT SHANNON SIMRELL AS REPRESENTATIVE TO U.S. MISSION TO...

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2019

WASHINGTON—Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20), Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (U.S. Helsinki Commission), today announced the appointment of Shannon Simrell as the Representative of the Helsinki Commission to the U.S. Mission to the OSCE (USOSCE). “On behalf of the...

HELSINKI COMMISSION LEADERS INTRODUCE TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION ACCOUNTABILITY AND...

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2019

WASHINGTON—Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) and Ranking Member Rep. Joe Wilson (SC-02) today introduced the Transnational Repression Accountability and Prevention (TRAP) Act (H.R. 4330) in the House of Representatives. Helsinki Commission Co-Chairman Sen. Roger Wicker (MS)...

HELSINKI COMMISSION HEARING TO PROBE AUTOCRATIC ABUSE OF INTERPOL

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 04, 2019

WASHINGTON—The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, today announced the following hearing: **TOOLS OF TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION** How Autocrats Punish Dissent Overseas Thursday, September 12, 2019 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Cannon House...

EUROPEAN POLITICAL LEADERS TO DISCUSS DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN EUROPE AT HELSINKI...

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 03, 2019

WASHINGTON—The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, today announced the following hearing: **THE STATE OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN EUROPE** Race, Rights, and Politics Wednesday, September 11, 2019 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Cannon House Office...

HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER, HELSINKI COMMISSIONERS DECRY EFFORTS TO SHUTTER COMMUNITY CENTER...

MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 2019

WASHINGTON—Following renewed efforts by authorities in Hungary to shutter the Aurora Community Center in Budapest, House Majority Leader Rep. Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05), Helsinki Commission Ranking Member Sen. Ben Cardin (MD), and Helsinki Commissioner Rep. Gwen Moore (WI-04) issued the following...

REPRESENTATIVES JACKSON LEE, CURTIS, MALINOWSKI, AND HUDSON INTRODUCE FOREIGN EXTORTION...

FRIDAY, AUGUST 02, 2019

WASHINGTON—Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (TX-18), Rep. John Curtis (UT-03), Rep. Tom Malinowski (NJ-07) and Rep. Richard Hudson (NC-08) today introduced the Foreign Extortion Prevention Act. The legislation, developed with the support of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, will criminalize extortion by foreign officials...

HASTINGS AND WICKER CONDEMN POLICE CRACKDOWN ON RUSSIAN PRO-DEMOCRACY PROTESTERS AND...

TUESDAY, JULY 30, 2019

WASHINGTON—Following violent police crackdowns on protesters during a weekend of pro-democratic demonstrations in Moscow, as well as the arrest of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny days before the protest and his subsequent hospitalization, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings...

RANKING MEMBER CARDIN RE-APPOINTED AS OSCE PARLIAMENTARY
ASSEMBLY SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE...

FRIDAY, JULY 26, 2019

WASHINGTON—President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA) George Tsereteli has re-appointed Helsinki Commission Ranking Member Sen. Ben Cardin (MD) as the OSCE PA Special Representative on Anti-Semitism, Racism, and Intolerance. “I am pleased to continue in my role as Special Representative, especially...

REPRESENTATIVES KEATING AND FITZPATRICK INTRODUCE COUNTERING
RUSSIAN AND OTHER OVERSEAS...

THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2019

WASHINGTON—Rep. Bill Keating (MA-10) and Helsinki Commissioner Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (PA-01) today introduced the Countering Russian and Other Overseas Kleptocracy (CROOK) Act. The CROOK Act will establish an anti-corruption action fund to provide extra funding during historic windows of...

OSCE REPRESENTATIVE ON FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA HARLEM DESIR TO APPEAR
AT HELSINKI COMMISSION...

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2019

WASHINGTON—The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, today announced the following hearing: STATE OF MEDIA FREEDOM IN THE OSCE REGION Thursday, July 25, 2019 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Capitol Visitor Center Room HVC-210 Live Webcast:...

HELSINKI COMMISSION BRIEFING TO EXAMINE POLITICAL INFLUENCE IN
EUROPEAN ENERGY MARKETS

TUESDAY, JULY 16, 2019

WASHINGTON—The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, today announced the following briefing: PIPELINE POLITICS Energy and Power in Europe Tuesday, July 23, 2019 11:00 a.m. Longworth House Office Building Room 1334 Live Webcast:...

TRUTH, RECONCILIATION, AND HEALING FOCUS OF UPCOMING HELSINKI
COMMISSION BRIEFING

FRIDAY, JULY 12, 2019

WASHINGTON—The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, today announced the following briefing: TRUTH, RECONCILIATION, & HEALING Toward a Unified Future Thursday, July 18, 2019 10:00 a.m – 12:00 p.m. Rayburn House Office Building Room 2167 Live...

HELSINKI COMMISSION HEARING TO EXAMINE ROLE OF RELIGIOUS ACTORS IN
RESPONDING TO HATE

THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2019

WASHINGTON—The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, today announced the following hearing: RESPONDING TO HATE The Role of Religious Actors Tuesday, July 16, 2019 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Rayburn House Office Building Room 2200 Live Webcast:...

DELEGATION LED BY CO-CHAIRMAN WICKER DEMONSTRATES U.S.
COMMITMENT TO COUNTERING KREMLIN...

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 2019

WASHINGTON—From July 4 to July 8, Helsinki Commission Co-Chairman Sen. Roger Wicker (MS) led the largest bipartisan, bicameral U.S. delegation in history to the 2019 OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA) Annual Session in Luxembourg. The participation of 19 members of Congress showed the deep U.S..

HELSINKI COMMISSION CONVENES HISTORIC FIELD HEARING IN POLAND TO
EXAMINE REGIONAL SECURITY...

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2019

WASHINGTON—For the first time in its 43-year history, the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the U.S. Helsinki Commission, will convene outside of the United States for a field hearing to underscore America’s commitment to security in the Baltic Sea region and its unwavering support for...

CO-CHAIRMAN WICKER ON RELEASE OF 2018 REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2019

WASHINGTON—Following the release of the 2018 Report on International Religious Freedom by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom Sam Brownback, a former chairman of the Helsinki Commission, Helsinki Commission Co-Chairman Sen. Roger Wicker (MS)...

CHAIRMAN HASTINGS ON RELEASE OF 2018 REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2019

WASHINGTON—Following the release of the 2018 Report on International Religious Freedom by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom Sam Brownback, a former chairman of the Helsinki Commission, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20)...

CO-CHAIRMAN WICKER, SEN. SINEMA INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO FIGHT
ILLCIT TOBACCO TRADE

TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2019

WASHINGTON—Helsinki Commission Co-Chairman Sen. Roger Wicker (MS) and Sen. Kyrsten Sinema (AZ) today introduced the Combating the Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products Act (CITTPA) in the Senate. The bill was introduced by Helsinki Commissioners Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (TX-18) and Rep. Richard Hudson...

REPRESENTATIVES COHEN AND CHABOT INTRODUCE KLEPTOCRAT EXPOSURE
ACT

MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2019

WASHINGTON—Helsinki Commissioner Rep. Steve Cohen (TN-09) and Rep. Steve Chabot (OH-01) today introduced the Kleptocrat Exposure Act. The act will provide the Secretary of State the authority to publicly reveal the names of individuals and their immediate family members who are subject to U.S. visa bans as a...

HELSINKI COMMISSION DEBUTS MONTHLY PODCAST SERIES, “HELSINKI ON THE HILL”

FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2019

WASHINGTON—The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, today announced the launch of “Helsinki on the Hill,” a new podcast series that tells the human stories behind the commission’s work to promote human rights, military security, and economic cooperation...

CHAIRMAN HASTINGS ON WORLD REFUGEE DAY

THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2019

WASHINGTON—In honor of World Refugee Day, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) today issued the following statement: “On World Refugee Day, we recognize those who risk everything—even their lives—in the search for freedom and safety. They have fled their homes in fear, only to face...

INTERNATIONAL ELECTION OBSERVATION TO BE DISCUSSED AT HELSINKI COMMISSION BRIEFING

MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2019

WASHINGTON—The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, today announced the following briefing: INTERNATIONAL ELECTION OBSERVATION IN THE US AND BEYOND Why It Matters Wednesday, June 19, 2019 10:00 a.m. Rayburn House Office...

CHAIRMAN HASTINGS ON POLITICAL CRISIS IN MOLDOVA

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2019

WASHINGTON—In light of the current political crisis unfolding in Moldova, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) issued the following statement: “I am watching developments in Moldova with concern. Moving the goalpost because one party doesn’t like the outcome of an agreement does not...

HASTINGS AND WICKER CONDEMN RECENT ARREST OF IVAN GOLUNOV

MONDAY, JUNE 10, 2019

WASHINGTON—Following the recent arrest of investigative journalist Ivan Golunov by Russian authorities, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) and Co-Chairman Sen. Roger Wicker (MS) issued the following statement: “Journalism remains a dangerous profession in Russia, especially for...

HELSINKI COMMISSION BRIEFING TO EXPLORE NON-ASYLUM PROTECTIONS IN UNITED STATES AND EUROPE

FRIDAY, JUNE 07, 2019

WASHINGTON—The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, today announced the following briefing: PARTIALLY PROTECTED? Non-Asylum Protection in the United States and the European Union Friday, June 14, 2019 2:00 p.m. Rayburn House Office...

HELSINKI COMMISSION HEARING TO EXAMINE RUSSIA’S APPROACH TO COUNTERTERRORISM

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 05, 2019

WASHINGTON—The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, today announced the following hearing: **RUSSIA’S COUNTERPRODUCTIVE COUNTERTERRORISM** Wednesday, June 12, 2019 10:30 a.m. Rayburn House Office Building Room 2255 Live Webcast:...

CHAIRMAN HASTINGS COMMEMORATES EID AL-FITR

TUESDAY, JUNE 04, 2019

WASHINGTON—In commemoration of Eid al-Fitr, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) today issued the following statement: “Today, I join Muslim communities across the OSCE region and around the world to celebrate Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan. As Muslims...

MOLDOVA FOCUS OF UPCOMING HELSINKI COMMISSION BRIEFING

THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2019

WASHINGTON— The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, today announced the following briefing: **WHY MOLDOVA MATTERS** Tuesday, June 4, 2019 10:00 a.m. Cannon House Office Building Room 121 Live Webcast: www.facebook.com/HelsinkiCommission...

CHAIRMAN HASTINGS ON CONFIRMATION OF AMBASSADOR GILMORE AS U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE OSCE

FRIDAY, MAY 24, 2019

WASHINGTON—Following yesterday’s confirmation of Ambassador James S. Gilmore as the U.S. Representative to the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) issued the following statement: “I congratulate Ambassador Gilmore on his...

HELSINKI COMMISSION TO HOLD BRIEFING ON UK ANTI-CORRUPTION POLICIES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2019

WASHINGTON—The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, today announced the following briefing: **CURBING CORRUPTION THROUGH CORPORATE TRANSPARENCY AND COLLABORATION** The British Model Wednesday, May 29, 2019 9:00...

HELSINKI COMMISSION AND HOUSE FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE ANNOUNCE JOINT BRIEFING ON...

FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2019

WASHINGTON—The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, in partnership with the House Financial Services Committee, today announced the following joint briefing: **SHADY SHIPPING** Understanding Trade-Based Money Laundering Friday, May 24, 2019 9:30...

CHAIRMAN HASTINGS ON UPCOMING MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT TRUMP AND PRIME MINISTER ORBAN

SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2019

WASHINGTON—Ahead of Monday’s meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) issued the following statement: “Thirty years after Central European nations threw off the mantle of communism and...

UKRAINIAN ELECTIONS FOCUS OF UPCOMING HELSINKI COMMISSION BRIEFING

MONDAY, MAY 06, 2019

WASHINGTON—The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, today announced the following briefing: POWER AND POLITICS Implications of Ukraine’s Presidential Elections Thursday, May 9, 2019 2:00 p.m. Rayburn House Office Building Room 2200 Live...

HASTINGS AND WICKER MARK WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY

FRIDAY, MAY 03, 2019

WASHINGTON—On World Press Freedom Day, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) and Co-Chairman Sen. Roger Wicker (MS) issued the following joint statement: “On World Press Freedom Day, we reflect on the importance of the free media to the strength of our own democracy and to the...

HELSINKI COMMISSION LEADERS COMMEMORATE HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

THURSDAY, MAY 02, 2019

WASHINGTON—As the country commemorates Holocaust Remembrance Day and mourns the victims of the shooting at the Chabad of Poway synagogue, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20), Co-Chairman Sen. Roger Wicker (MS), and Ranking Members Sen. Ben Cardin (MD) and Rep. Joe...

HASTINGS, WICKER, AND MOORE MARK THE ANNIVERSARY OF JOSEPH STONE’S DEATH IN UKRAINE

TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2019

WASHINGTON—On the two-year anniversary of the death of Joseph Stone, a U.S. paramedic serving with the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) in Ukraine, Helsinki Commission Chairman Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) recalled Stone’s tragic death in the Russia-driven conflict and underlined that agreements to...

HELSINKI COMMISSION CHAIRMAN CONDEMNS MOB ATTACKS ON ROMA IN EUROPE

FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2019

WASHINGTON—Following reports of a mob attack against the Roma community and a police station in Gabrovo, Bulgaria, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) today issued the following statement: “I am very disturbed by the increasing frequency of mob attacks on Roma in Europe—most...

WICKER AND CARDIN INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO DEFEND U.S. CITIZENS AND DIPLOMATIC STAFF FROM...

TUESDAY, APRIL 09, 2019

WASHINGTON—Sen. Roger Wicker (MS) and Sen. Ben Cardin (MD) today introduced the Defending United States Citizens and Diplomatic Staff from Political Prosecutions Act of 2019 (S. 1075) to address the ongoing wrongful detentions of U.S. citizens and diplomatic staff by the Government of Turkey. U.S. Senate...

HASTINGS, WICKER, WATKINS, AND CARDIN INTRODUCE RESOLUTIONS CELEBRATING ROMANI AMERICAN...

FRIDAY, APRIL 05, 2019

WASHINGTON—Ahead of International Roma Day on April 8, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20), Sen. Roger Wicker (MS), Rep. Steve Watkins (KS-02), and Sen. Ben Cardin (MD) introduced resolutions in the U.S. House of Representatives (H.Res.292) and the U.S. Senate (S.Res.141) celebrating...

HELSINKI COMMISSION BRIEFING TO EXPLORE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN HUNGARY

TUESDAY, APRIL 02, 2019

WASHINGTON—The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, today announced the following briefing: DEVELOPMENTS IN HUNGARY Tuesday, April 9, 2019 10:00 a.m. Longworth House Office Building Room 1539 Live Webcast:...

SLOVAKIAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO APPEAR AT HELSINKI COMMISSION HEARING

THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2019

WASHINGTON—The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, today announced the following hearing: SLOVAKIA'S CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE OSCE Priorities and Challenges Wednesday, April 3, 2019 3:30 p.m. Senate Visitor Center Room 201-00 Live Webcast:...

CHAIRMAN HASTINGS INTRODUCES BILL TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE OF AFRICAN...

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2019

WASHINGTON—Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) yesterday introduced H.R.1877, the African Descent Affairs Act of 2019. The bill would establish a U.S. strategy to protect and promote the human rights of people of African descent worldwide. "The vestiges of colonialism and slavery continue...

CHAIRMAN HASTINGS RECOGNIZES BLACK EUROPEAN FIGHT FOR INCLUSION

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2019

WASHINGTON—As the world commemorates the International Decade for People of African Descent, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) yesterday introduced H.Res.256, recognizing the achievements and contributions of people of African descent and black Europeans in the face of persistent...

HELSINKI COMMISSION MARKS FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF ILLEGAL REFERENDUM IN CRIMEA

FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2019

WASHINGTON—Ahead of the fifth anniversary of the illegal Russian-organized referendum in Crimea, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) and Co-Chairman Sen. Roger Wicker (MS) issued the following statement: “Five years ago, the Government of Russia tried to legitimize its illegal occupation of..

CHAIRMAN HASTINGS WELCOMES RELEASE OF COUNTRY REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2019

WASHINGTON—Following yesterday’s release by the State Department of the Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2018, Helsinki Commission Chair Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) issued the following statement: “I welcome the release of this year’s Country Reports on Human Rights Practices. These reports...

JACKSON LEE AND HUDSON INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO FIGHT ILLICIT TOBACCO TRADE

FRIDAY, MARCH 08, 2019

WASHINGTON—Representatives Sheila Jackson Lee (TX-18) and Richard Hudson (NC-08) today introduced the Combating the Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products Act (CITTPA) in the House of Representatives. Both Rep. Jackson Lee and Rep. Hudson serve on ad hoc committees of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, which...

CHAIRMAN HASTINGS COMMEMORATES ANNIVERSARY OF SUMGAI POGROM

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2019

WASHINGTON—On the 31st anniversary of the Sumgait pogrom, Helsinki Commission Chair Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) issued the following statement: “Today we commemorate the victims of the Sumgait pogrom, part of the tragic human toll of inter-ethnic conflict that culminated in the Nagorno-Karabakh war...

CHAIRMAN HASTINGS REMEMBERS 27TH ANNIVERSARY OF KHOJALY MASSACRE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2019

WASHINGTON—On the 27th anniversary of the Khojaly Massacre, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) issued the following statement: “Khojaly, a town in the Republic of Azerbaijan, was home to a barbaric act of brutality that desecrated the norms and principles of international law, human rights...

CHAIRMAN HASTINGS MARKS ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF JAN KUCIAK’S MURDER

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2019

WASHINGTON—On the one-year anniversary of the murder of Slovak investigative journalist Jan Kuciak and his fiancée, Martina Kusnirova, Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) issued the following statement: “I support and applaud the people of Slovakia who have courageously demonstrated their...

CHAIRMAN HASTINGS APPOINTS ALEX T. JOHNSON HELSINKI COMMISSION CHIEF OF STAFF

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2019

WASHINGTON—Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20), Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (U.S. Helsinki Commission), today announced the appointment of Alex T. Johnson as Helsinki Commission Chief of Staff. Johnson will be the commission's first African-American chief of staff since...

WICKER, CARDIN CONDEMN DETENTION OF RUSSIAN ACTIVIST NASTYA SHEVCHENKO

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 07, 2019

WASHINGTON—Sen. Roger Wicker (MS) and Sen. Ben Cardin (MD) today issued the following statements on the detention of Anastasia (Nastya) Shevchenko, a human rights activist with the Open Russia organization, who was placed under house arrest on January 23: “No one should face jail time for peaceful advocacy,”...

REPRESENTATIVE ALCEE L. HASTINGS TO HELM HELSINKI COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 06, 2019

WASHINGTON—Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi has appointed Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) to chair the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, during the 116th Congress. “For more than four decades, the Helsinki Commission has championed human rights and...

HELSINKI COMMISSION BRIEFING TO FOCUS ON ASSET RECOVERY IN EURASIA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 06, 2019

WASHINGTON—The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, today announced the following briefing: ASSET RECOVERY IN EURASIA Repatriation or Repay the Patron? Wednesday, February 13, 2019 10:00 a.m. Dirksen Senate Office Building Room 562 Live...

WHITEHOUSE, WICKER, JACKSON LEE, BURGESS INTRODUCE RODCHENKOV ACT

TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2019

WASHINGTON—One week after the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) failed to suspend the Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA) for missing a crucial December 31, 2018, deadline, Senators Sheldon Whitehouse (RI) and Roger Wicker (MS) and Representatives Sheila Jackson Lee (TX-18) and Michael Burgess...

HASTINGS RECOGNIZES INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27, 2019

Fort Lauderdale, FL—Congressman Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20) released the following statement marking International Holocaust Remembrance Day: “Today, I join the international community in reflecting on the murder of six million Jews during one of the darkest periods in human history. Between 1940 and 1945, two out...

CARDIN ON INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2019

WASHINGTON—U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (MD), a senior member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and Ranking Member of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, made the following statement on International Holocaust Commemoration Day, which is Sunday, January 27: “The anniversary of the liberation of...

REP. SMITH AUTHORS NEW COMPREHENSIVE AMERICAN LAW TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 08, 2019

WASHINGTON—On Tuesday, President Trump signed into law Rep. Chris Smith’s (NJ-04) bill authorizing \$430 million over four years for a whole-of-government effort to fight sex and labor trafficking at home and abroad—Smith’s fifth comprehensive law to fight human trafficking. “My Frederick Douglass law authorizes...